CLAIMS.

1.- Method for echo cancelling in a communication line system, characterised in that said method is performed by adapting tunable passive elements of a hybrid (5) which forms part of the analog front end of said communications line system, whereby the values of the tunable passive elements are controlled by digital control means (4).

2.- Method according to claim 1, characterised in that a scaling factor (k) is used for adapting said tunable passive elements.

3.- Method according to claim 1, characterised in that adapting said tunable passive elements comprises a step of measuring the TX return loss gain in said hybrid (5), whereby, when this gain differs from zero, the digital control means (4) goes through a loop of adaptation of the tunable passive elements until this zero value of said TX return loss gain is obtained.

4.- Method according to claims 2 and 3, characterised in that said hybrid (5) comprises a hybrid bridge (13) with two branches (19), each comprising two tunable passive impedances (Z_2 and Z_b) in series, one of which being a tunable balance impedance (Z_b), said tunable passive impedances being tuned such that the value of said tunable balance impedance (Z_b) approximates as close as possible the scaled impedance value of the parallel

circuit of the line termination resistance ($2R_t/2n^2$) in the TX paths, and the line impedance (Z_{tr+li}).

5.- Method according to claim 4, characterised in that said hybrid (5) comprises a current to voltage converter (14), the feedback impedances (Z_{fb}) of which being adapted so as to be equal to said tunable balance impedance (Z_b).

6.- Device for echo cancelling in a communication line system, characterised in that it comprises:

- a hybrid (5), being part of the analog front end of said communication line system, said hybrid (5) comprising tunable passive elements, the values of which are controllable, by a
- digital control means (4) coupled to said hybrid (5) and also included in said device.

7.- Device according to claim 6 , characterised in that said tunable passive elements of said hybrid (5) are scalable by a predetermined scaling factor (k).

8.- Device according to claim 6, characterised in that said hybrid (5) comprises a hybrid bridge (13) and a current to voltage converter (14).

9.- Device according to claim 8, characterised in that said hybrid bridge (13) comprises two identical branches (19), each comprising a tunable balance impedance (Z_b) in series with a second tunable impedance (Z_2).

10.- Device according to claim 9, characterised in that said tunable balance impedance (Z_b) comprises a tunable resistor (R_0), in parallel with a series connection of a tunable resistor (R_1) and a tunable capacitor (C_1), and in parallel with another resistor (R_3).

11.- Device according to claim 10, characterised in that said another resistor (R_3) has the same resistance value ($2kR_t/2n^2$), as the line termination resistors (12) in the TX paths, scaled with said scaling factor (k).

12. Device according to claim 9, characterised in that said second tunable impedance (Z_2) in each branch (19) comprises a resistor (R_2) in series with a tunable capacitor (C_2), the value ($2kR_t/2n^2$) of said resistor (R_2) being the same as the resistance value of said line termination resistors (12) in the TX paths, scaled with said scaling factor (k).

13.- Device according to claim 9, characterised in that said current to voltage converter (14) comprises an operational amplifier (20) with tunable feedback impedances (Z_{fb}) having the same impedance values as said tunable balance impedance (Z_b).

14.- Device according to claim 6, characterised in that said digital control means comprises a microprocessor (4).

15.- Device according to claim 6, characterised in that said tunable passive elements are part of an integrated circuit.